

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 44, line 6, as follows:

The top plate 112c of the quartz bell jar 112 includes bosses 112g~112i for supporting the SiC susceptor 118 that protrude from three locations (at 120 degree angles with respect to each other). Accordingly, the SiC susceptor 118 supported by the bosses 112g~112i are arranged to be slightly ~~detached~~ separated from the top plate 112c. Thereby, even when the internal pressure of the processing vessel 22 changes, or the when the SiC susceptor 118 is moved downward due to temperature change, the SiC susceptor 118 may be prevented from coming into contact with the top plate 112c.